

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACT RESULTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL JUNIORS RELEASED

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Overall results from the 2009 administration of the ACT to Kentucky's public school juniors show a small improvement in mathematics, but minor drops or flat scores in other subjects.

As mandated by KRS 158.6453, all of Kentucky's public school juniors participate in the ACT, which assesses English, reading, mathematics and science and is scored on a scale of 1 to 36. The cost of the exam is paid for by state funds. In spring 2009, 43,511 public school juniors took the ACT.

2008 AND 2009 ACT SUBJECT-AREA AND COMPOSITE SCORES KENTUCKY PUBLIC SCHOOL JUNIORS

Group	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
All Students	17.3	17.3	18.1	18.2	18.5	18.4	18.7	18.5	18.3	18.2
African Am./Black	13.8	14.1	16.0	16.1	15.6	15.6	16.3	16.1	15.6	15.6
Am. Indian/Alaska Native	13.3	14.4	15.8	16.2	15.4	16.3	16.0	16.3	15.2	15.9
Caucasian Am./White	18.0	17.8	18.5	18.5	19.2	18.8	19.3	18.8	18.9	18.6
Hispanic	14.6	15.0	17.0	17.3	16.4	16.8	17.2	17.3	16.4	16.8
Asian Am./Pacific Islander	18.8	20.3	21.0	22.4	19.8	20.6	20.2	21.4	20.1	21.3
Other/No Response	15.7	17.2	17.2	18.2	17.2	18.3	17.6	18.4	17.1	18.1
Males	16.6	16.5	18.3	18.3	17.9	17.7	18.8	18.5	18.0	17.9
Females	18.0	18.2	17.9	18.1	19.2	19.1	18.7	18.5	18.5	18.6
No Gender Response	15.0	14.8	16.6	16.6	16.7	16.3	17.1	16.4	16.5	16.2

KRS 158.6453 mandates that Kentucky's public school students participate in the Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS) from ACT. The state assesses public school 8th graders using the EXPLORE test, public school 10th graders with the PLAN test and public school 11th graders through the ACT.

Senate Bill 1, passed in the 2009 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, mandates that ACT results be included in school and district accountability results in the 2011-12 school year.

(more)

Visit our Web site at <http://www.education.ky.gov>.

ACT provides information about high school students who take recommended core courses, which include four years of English, three mathematics courses, three social studies courses and three science courses over the four years of high school. Students who indicate that they are taking the core courses or more generally score at higher levels on the ACT.

2009 KENTUCKY JUNIORS' COURSE-TAKING PATTERNS/ACT COMPOSITE SCORES

Group	Number	Percent Taking Core or More	Composite Score – Core or More	Composite Score – Less Than Core
All Students	43,511	56	19.5	16.7
African Am./Black	3,842	41	16.6	14.9
Am. Indian/Alaska Native	198	47	16.8	15.2
Caucasian Am./White	33,060	58	19.7	17.0
Hispanic	856	50	18.1	15.6
Asian Am./Pacific Islander	460	67	23.0	18.1
Other/No Response	5,095	54	19.5	16.6

ACT developed College Readiness Benchmarks in English, mathematics, science and reading, with research indicating that students who reach those have a 50 percent chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75 percent chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college course. The benchmark scores are:

- 18 or higher on the ACT English Test
- 22 or higher on the ACT Mathematics Test
- 21 or higher on the ACT Reading Test
- 24 or higher on the ACT Science Test

For the Kentucky public school juniors who took the ACT assessment in 2008 and 2009:

2008	2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 percent were ready for college-level English composition courses • 20 percent were ready for college-level algebra courses • 33 percent were ready for college-level social science courses • 15 percent were ready for college-level biology courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 percent are ready for college-level English composition courses • 21 percent are ready for college-level algebra courses • 30 percent are ready for college-level social science courses • 16 percent are ready for college-level biology courses

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